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The Execution and Confessions OF THE Seven Priſoners Executed at TYBURN

On *Friday* the 19th of *December*, 1679.

VIZ.

John Parker, for High-Treaſon.

Benjamin Penry, for Robbery on the Highway.

John Dell, of *Edger*, for ſtealing a Mare; but tryed for ſeveral Murders, firſt of his Wife's Brother, then of her Father, and lately of his ſaid Wife her ſelf.

Richard Dean, heretofore his Servant, condemned with him for the ſame Felony, but ſuppoſed to be equally guilty with him in all the ſaid Murders.

William Atkins, *Suſan White*, and *Deborah Rogers*, } For ſeveral Felonies, being all old Offenders.

WITH

A particular Account of the ſaid *John Dell*'s impenitent and refractory Behaviour after Sentence of Death paſs'd upon him, *&c.*

AT the laſt Seſſions for *London* and *Middleſex*, ending on *Saturday* the 13th of this inſtant *December*, there were in all Eleven perſons (ſix men and five women) that received Sentence of Death; of whom Four, *viz. Jane Cragnel*, *Anne Side*, *James Rawlins*, and *Sarah Bennifield*, alias *Bodington*, obtained his Majeſties gracious Reprieve.

As for the reſt that ſuffered, we ſhall give the Reader a true and impartial account both of their Crimes and Deportment after Condemnation.

John Parker was by Trade a Watch-maker, and 'tis ſaid a moſt ingenious Artiſt in that Profeſſion; but happening long ſince into Ill Company, he has for many years followed thoſe miſchievous practices of Clipping and Coyning, whereby the whole Nation is moſt horribly, and more of late than ever, abuſed and defrauded. He had a Brother of the ſame bad Principles, for which he had three or four times been queſtioned; as likewiſe this man had once been tryed and convicted of the like Offences at *Salisbury*, though there he evaded Execution. The Fact at preſent was fully proved upon him by an ocular Witneſs; and when Sentence of Death paſſed upon him, he was the onely perſon that deſired time to fit and prepare himſelf to die; which both to him and the reſt was charitably granted. After his Conviction, two perſons coming to viſit him, were detained; whether charged by him, or otherwiſe, we ſhall not ſay. He ſeem'd all along to comfort himſelf with hopes of a Pardon, having (as 'tis ſaid) obtained one for his Brother heretofore in the ſame Circumſtances, by preſenting a Watch of exquiſite workmanſhip to a Woman of mighty Prevalency. But as he had led an ill life, ſo his Deportment was now ſuitable, rather buſied for a Reprieve from man, than pardoning Mercy from God.

Benjamin Penry was a very ſtout portly man, prov'd to be a notorious Highway-man, and Companion with *French* who was executed laſt Seſſions; with whom he was taken in *Iſlington*-Town on the Lords-day, where being (as 'tis believed) in drink, they made an Aſſault on a young man, with an intention (as 'tis probable) to rob him of an Horſe of great value; for which Miſdemeanour being committed, other things came againſt them, and particularly this *Penry* was found guilty of robbing a Gentleman on *Bag-ſhot-heath*. As he was a man of Confidence, ſo he behaved himſelf with an untoward, at leaſt unchriſtian kind of Reſolution. He had a woman indicted with him, whom he call'd Wife, one Mrs. *White*, formerly condemned for Clipping; ſhe endeavoured to bring him to confeſs others of the Gang, but as far as we hear, without much effect.

The next was the notorious *John Dell*, lately living at *Edger* in *Middleſex*, of whom common Fame has given ſuch a report, as may excuſe us from enlarging. He and his Companion *Richard Dean*, formerly his Servant, heretofore Tryed for the Murder of the ſaid *Dell's* Wives Brother, a Tanner, whoſe Body about a Year ago was found near *Redlion-fields*, were this Seſſions Tryed, firſt for Murdering his the ſaid *Dell's* Wife; and next day, for Murdering one *Daniel Ball* her Father. The Circumſtances on each were very preſſing, and (as Mr. Recorder excellently obſerved) in the judgment of moſt Auditors, ſeem'd to want rather Proof than Truth: However, they were thereof found Not Guilty; but

but afterwards Condemn'd for ſtealing a Mare. The Behaviour of this *Dell* after Sentence was very ſad and extraordinary; he ſeem'd to have no kinde of Remorſe for his Sins in general, or Senſe of his approaching End; but rather added to the former Suſpicions: For when ſoon after Condemnation, by the prudent care of the Court, *Dean* was ordered to be taken out of his company, and kept apart, he ſeemed to be much troubled at it; and calling for Ale, whiſper'd to the Boy that brought it, to commend him to the ſaid *Dean*, and tell him, that poſſibly he might be put to the Torture, but however he ſhould be ſure *to ſtand his Ground.* When the other Priſoners went to Prayers, he would retire into a corner, wrap himſelf up in his Cloak, and refuſe to joyn with them, ſaying, *He could not pray.* Even at Chappel, the Miniſter endeavouring to reach their Conſciences by a particular Application, and treating of the heinouſneſs of the ſin of Murder, this *Dell* inſolently interrupted him in the publick Congregation, ſaying, *Who do you ſpeak to? Why do you direct your diſcourſe to me?* or ill irreverent words to that effect. Beſides the unwearied pains taken by Mr. Ordinary, ſeveral other able Miniſters were ſent, or led by Charity to viſit him, but he ſullenly received them; and to one diſcourſing of the two future ſtates, *Heaven* and *Hell*, with a ſcoffing kind of Atheiſtical humour, he replied, *Heaven! There is not one of a thouſand goes to Heaven, why talk you to me of Heaven?* Another time he refuſed to be uncovered at Religious Worſhip, ſcoffingly ſaying, He ſhould catch cold, or a Chine-cough, if he pull'd off his Hat; with ſeveral other marks of a deplorable Impenitency.

As for *John Dean*, though he behaved himſelf not ſo moroſely and untowardly, but would often confeſs in general terms that he had been a very great Sinner, yet could not he by any pains of the Miniſters be brought to acknowledge the Murders whereof they were both ſo violently ſuſpected as aforeſaid. 'Tis believed, that being only found Guilty of Felony for ſtealing the Mare, and for want of Legal Proof acquitted of the other matters, might harden their hearts to deny their other Crimes, hoping that for ſo ſmall an one they might eaſily obtain a Pardon. So ſollicitous are bad men to prolong a *miſerable*, and at beſt *uncertain* Life *here*, for a few moments, though thereby they incur eternal Death and never-ending Torments in the World to come. For let all ſtubborn Sinners know, that however with Hypocritical pretences to Innocence or Jeſuitical Impudence they may conceal from, or forſwear their Villanies unto Men, yet there is a moſt Juſt and All-ſeeing God, from whom nothing can be hid, and who will not always be mocked; but certainly, though ſometimes ſlowly, and after a long and ſeeming proſperous Carreer in Wickedneſs, will call them to a ſevere Account, and pour forth to the full his dreadful Indignation upon them.

On

On this preſent *Friday* the 19th of *December*, *Parker* was drawn from *Newgate* on a Sled with four Horſes: He behaved himſelf very penitently, holding a Book in his hand, and often elevated his eyes to Heaven. *Dell*, *Atkins*, and *Penry* were carried in one Cart: The two women in another, of whom one was whipped but the very laſt Seſſions: And *Dean* in a Cart by himſelf; He ſeemed a poor ſorry fellow, but had often been concerned in Rogueries, and without doubt had been a Confederate with his Maſter *Dell* in many of his late horrid Crimes. However, in his Paſſage he demean'd himſelf with much more ſhew of Penitence than the other, and it was well hoped that he would make an ingenuous Confeſſion.

Mr. *Dell* continued obſtinate to the laſt, and in the Morning before he went out of *Newgate*, the Ordinary preſſing him to a Confeſſion, he impiouſly anſwered, *What ſhall I confeſs for, it is not in your Power to Pardon me?* Nor did he at the place of Execution own any thing, nor indeed could be induced to ſpeak; but in a ſtupid manner was Executed.

Parker appeared very penitent, and gave away his Book before he came to *Tyburn* to an Acquaintance of his.

The Highway-man Mr. *Penry*, died very compoſedly, and juſt before his death, in ſpight of all his Reſolutions, the Tears ran down his cheeks.

Atkins, who ſuffered for being a Pickpocket and a great Practitioner that way, ſeemed alſo to be mindful of his latter End.

Dean was kept alive till all the reſt were executed, and Captain *Richardſon* very worthily, and with incomparable earneſt Expreſſions, importun'd him to a Confeſſion; and once he was, as it were, turn'd off, but ſtopt; and then he did ſay, *That he verily believed* Dell *was guilty of the Murder of his Wife:* but would not acknowledge that he himſelf was concern'd. And ſo he was likewiſe executed.

FINIS.

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